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DE RUEHKO #1024/01 1211120
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 011120Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2715
INFO RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY 0608
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5118
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9100
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3817
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1471
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 6155
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7620
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 4354
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3516
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4900
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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
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RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 001024

DEPT FOR OES/IHB AMBASSADOR LOFTIS
DEPT FOR EAP/J, EAP/EX, CA
USDA PASS TO APHIS, FAS FOR BURDETT
HHS PASS TO CDC
HHS FOR OGHA
DEPT PASS TO AID/GH/HIDN

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KFLU](#) [AEMR](#) [AES](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [TBIO](#) [KSAF](#) [KPAO](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#)
AMGT, MG, EAGR, JA
SUBJECT: MGSF01 May 1 UPDATE ON JAPAN'S RESPONSE TO H1N1 OUTBREAK

REF: A) TOKYO 965; B) TOKYO 982; C) TOKYO 993; D) TOKYO 1008

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This Message is Sensitive but Unclassified. Please handle accordingly.

11. (SBU) Summary: A four-month-old baby arriving at Yokota Air Base May 1 tested positive for Type A influenza. The baby is in isolation together with the mother at Yokota Hospital and is undergoing further evaluation and treatment. The case is being evaluated for possible H1N1. Thirteen other passengers, who exhibited no symptoms, submitted to voluntary quarantine pending further tests. Post is coordinating with USFJ and the GOJ on the case. A Japanese student in Yokohama reported to have Type A influenza later tested negative for the H1N1 strain as did another Japanese earlier suspected of suffering from H1N1 influenza who arrived in Tokyo on a flight from the U.S. April 30. The PM said the GOJ should be flexible and agile about further countermeasures should an H1N1 case be confirmed in Japan. Aviation officials are concerned about the impact of border screening measures on passenger traffic. End summary.

12. (SBU) United States Forces Japan (USFJ) reported a four-month old baby tested positive for Type A influenza during health screening upon arrival May 1 at the U.S. Air Force's Yokota Air Base in Fussa, Japan. Virus samples are being tested to determine whether the baby is infected with the H1N1 strain. Military officers said the baby was transferred with its mother, who did not exhibit flu symptoms, to the hospital on the base where they are in isolation and the baby is undergoing further evaluation and treatment. The baby, on SOFA dependent status, arrived from the U.S. with her parents on the Air Force's "Patriot Express" flight at 8:20 a.m. local time May 1. Thirteen other passengers, seated nearby on the flight, submitted to voluntary quarantine pending

further tests. None of the 13 other passengers exhibited flu symptoms. (Note: U.S. Military operational commands in Japan are conducting health screening procedures for international arrivals at their bases. These measures are similar to those being conducted by the GOJ at Japan's international airports. End Note).

¶13. (SBU) Post informed MOFA officials May 1 of the Type A case at Yokota Air Base. Foreign Ministry officials said they later briefed Chief Cabinet Secretary Kawamura and officials at the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW) on the case and that Kawamura instructed MHLW to offer assistance to USFJ in testing the virus sample at its National Institute for Infectious Diseases. Post is in contact with MOFA and MHLW officials and will coordinate on possible assistance.

¶14. (SBU) The Foreign Ministry issued a press release on the case, emphasizing U.S.-Japan cooperation and the effectiveness of USFJ's screening and quarantine measures.

¶15. (SBU) Earlier on May 1, media reported a possible H1N1 case in a 17-year-old Yokohama high school student who recently returned from British Columbia. However, further tests determined the student did not have the H1N1 virus, according to press reports. Another Japanese suspected of suffering from H1N1 influenza who arrived in Tokyo on a flight from the U.S. April 30 later tested negative for the H1N1 strain.

¶16. (SBU) Media reports of the GOJ's pandemic task force meeting May 1 noted Prime Minister Aso's call that the GOJ should make utmost efforts to prevent H1N1 from spreading in Japan. Aso added the GOJ should be flexible and agile in implementing additional countermeasures, should an H1N1 case be confirmed in Japan. Media also reported Aso and Chinese President Hu agreed April 30 to

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cooperate in preventing H1N1 from spreading further.

¶17. (SBU) Kansai airport (KIX) officials told emboffs they are concerned about the impact of screening and quarantine measures on air passenger traffic. United Airlines officials said they have seen an increase of 30-40 cancellations each day on UA's KIX to San Francisco flights.

¶18. (U) According to an April 28 Foreign Ministry statement, the GOJ is sending 5000 courses of Tamiflu to its Embassy in Mexico.

ZUMWALT